

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JONATHAN T. SWAIN, *Commissioner*
LANCE GOUGH, *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
September 10, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairwoman
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

Staff:

Lance Gough, Executive Director
Charles Holiday, Assistant Executive Director
Adam W. Lasker, General Counsel
James P. Allen, Communications Director
Peter Peso, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent
Bill Perez, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator
LaCretia Dandridge, Manager - Human Resources
Paulina Mysliwiec, Acting Manager – Community Services
Sarita Villarreal, Consultant
Gary Ryczyn, Consultant
Geneva Morris, Videographer
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)
C. Betty Magnus, Rainbow P.U.S.H.
Sandy Hed, Election Works
Bob Pyzdrowski, Arrow Messenger
Danielle Matzdorf, Arrow Messenger
George Zastro, Verizon
Xen Marangos, Dominion
Alex Soto Vasquez, Dominion
Kayla Lane Freeman, Chi Documenters
Alan Gietl, Verizon
George Unzueta, Verizon

- I. Call to Order meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All Commissioners present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: No change.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 23, 2019. Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 23, 2019. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was passed and the Minutes approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

V. Executive Director's Report (Mr. Lance Gough)

- Mr. Gough reported on the new project to implement the Dominion D-Suite voting system in Chicago.
 - The Co-Project Managers are the Board's Assistant Executive Director Charles Holiday and Dominion's Senior Project Manager Alex Soto Vasquez.
 - Mr. Soto Vasquez was called upon to present an update on the project.
 - The project managers have already begun to meet with the implementation team and have developed an initial schedule for implementation and training with various teams.
 - The plan now is to agree on the path forward for implementation and documentation with the team leaders.
 - It has been agreed that we want to keep the procedures and the current methodologies in place for the upcoming election and we are just moving new equipment into place.
 - Mr. Soto Vasquez mentioned that he was honored to have this opportunity and that Dominion has brought in a very experienced team including the project's Technical Lead Xen Marangos (who was also present at this meeting).
 - Messrs. Soto Vasquez and Marangos have been involved in implementations in Puerto Rico, the Philippines and several States across the U.S.
 - The Chair asked what the first project step will be, Mr. Soto Vasquez stated that it was to get the contract completed. Executive Director Gough said that there had been some miscommunications, but that has been corrected and the contract will be ready soon. General Counsel Adam Lasker said that there may be a need for a Special Board meeting in order to have the contract completed.
 - Mr. Soto Vasquez will be staying in Chicago throughout the project.
- Mr. Gough stated that there will be a meeting on Wednesday at 4:00 PM with the City Budget folks regarding funding for the new equipment and negotiations regarding the budget.

- Representatives of Verizon are present and will speak regarding our connectivity later at this meeting.
- A. Assistant Executive Director (Mr. Charles Holiday)
 - Mr. Holiday reported that he is working with Mr. Soto Vasquez regarding the implementation of new equipment and that he has received documentation from Dominion that he will distribute at a meeting with team leaders later today.
 - Card activation for Early Voting has been tested and it is working well.
 - Dominion and ES&S are working on card activation for Election Day.
 - On September 24th the implementation team will be at the Board's warehouse working with Manager Keith Carter reviewing the blue equipment carriers, especially their dimensions to make sure that everything will fit into the carriers.
- B. Communications Director (Mr. Jim Allen)
 - Mr. Allen reported that the Canvass mailing is approximately 1/3 finished at the mailing house. They will continue mailing around the clock and should be done by the end of the week or early next week.
 - Mr. Allen and Mr. Lasker attended a meeting to provide background information to an Alderman and different groups who are interested in creating a separate set of elected offices.
 - We updated our brochure for the coming Primary.
 - Communications has prepared an election primer, a brief Q&A. It has more information that we had in our old fast-facts cards. Mr. Allen will provide the Board members with copies, if they would like.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: has been addressed.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Mr. Holiday stated that there was a meeting with ES&S regarding having the ADA survey form added to the e-poll book; right now we are in cost negotiations with ES&S. If ES&S is going to stay at the same price they quoted, we may have to continue having the surveys in hard copy format. We are also discussing the cost of card activation using the e-poll books.
- C. Voting Equipment: already addressed.
- D. Legislation: Mr. Lasker reported that since the Illinois State Legislature is not in session there is nothing to report on legislative action. Mr. Lasker stated that he has begun a review of the Illinois Election Code for potential legislative agenda items regarding new equipment, but as Cook County has already implemented the new equipment, Mr. Lasker does not expect much change. We still have our agenda schedule from the last session and Mr. Lasker plans to continue forward with that. The omnibus

bill, which had many of our items on it, did not go through, but will continue to push for those items in the future.

VII. New Business

A. Agreement between the Board and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services

Mr. Gough called upon Verizon representatives Jeorge Zastr, and Al Gietl (from the Wireline side of Verizon Business) to address the Board.

Mr. Zastr explained that the issue presented to Verizon was to enhance the security between the voting equipment transmissions and the election center communications.

- Mr. Zastr stated that Verizon has product that would be appropriate.
- Mr. Zastr has worked with the Board in the past and will continue to have onsite support on Election Day and during election night. Verizon will have dedicated services with a direct link to Verizon's tier-3 support which can handle any issue that may occur.
- Mr. Gough explained to the Board that Verizon will be working with us, including during a mock/test election, and we will be able to do an audit right away.
- Mr. Zastr explained how communications will segregate all voting machines from all public connections. Mr. Zastr emphasized that redundancy and security were a part of the system and provided an overview of the secure transmission plan.

Commissioner Swain asked if the results will be transmitted from receiving station. Mr. Gough clarified that the precincts will wirelessly transmit only limited data, then full data will be transmitted from the receiving stations. The transmissions from the receiving stations will include the ballot images. Mr. Lasker added, because of the size of the image files it will come from the receiving station over dedicated lines. Mr. Zastr pointed out that the speed will increase, Dominion equipment is moving to a new chip set and modem from 3G to 4G transmission even for wireless transmission.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the 36-month agreement with MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board

VIII. Legal Report (General Counsel Adam Lasker)

- Mr. Lasker reported that we are working on finalizing our agreement with the Department of Justice (DoJ) for ADA compliance of Chicago polling places. The complicated part with DoJ has been completed. DoJ has received and appreciates the good work from us, and while we have not met the original time schedule, we are progressing. We were interviewed by the National Disabilities Rights Network who was quite impressed with what we have done with DoJ.
- The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and other departments are working with us, as the majority of polling places are in their facilities. It is an ongoing process.

- We still have two election-related lawsuits pending. The term limit referenda has filed leave to appeal, and the Calloway case has filed at the appellate court.
- We are in the process of revising the Advisory Referenda and Local Option Guidelines.
- As Mr. Allen had mentioned, he and Mr. Lasker met with an Alderman and public safety advisory board proponents. It is uncertain that the City can do this on its own.

IX. Financial Report

A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2019 Appropriation – 19-05 dated September 10, 2019 in the amount of \$365,710.37. Commissioner Swain moved to approve the City of Chicago 2019 Appropriation 19-05. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

B. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2019 Appropriation – 19-01 dated September 10, 2019 in the amount of \$576,077.50. Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the County of Cook 2019 Appropriation 19-01. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

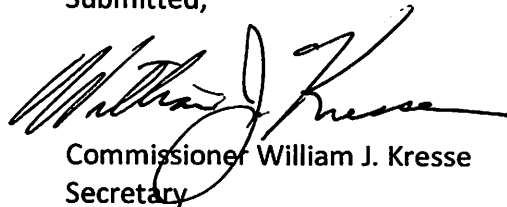
X. Public Comment

There were not Requests for Public Comment, but the Chair acknowledged the passing of Disabilities Rights activist Marka Briscoe. The Chair expressed her condolences to her family, but stated that Ms. Briscoe's legacy will live on.

XI. Executive Session: None

XII. Adjournment: The meeting for September 24th has been canceled, but a Special meeting may be called by the Chair. Commissioner Swain moved to adjourn until October 8th or at the call of the Chair. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted,



Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary